



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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## MINUTES

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**  
**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 739**  
**500 West Temple Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please note this is a summary of the meeting not a “verbatim” transcription.

### Roll Call/Commissioners Present:

Booker Pearson (Chair)  
Joe Brown  
Frank G. De Balogh  
Raúl Estrada

Michael Flood  
Egerton Forester  
Veronica Lewis  
Mary Galvan Rosas

### Commissioners Excused:

Michael Bloom  
Adele Andrade-Stadler (Vice-Chair)  
Lori Stein

Darick Simpson  
Rickey Ivie

### CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Booker Pearson, Chairman

Meeting was called to order. A quorum was established at 10:30 a.m.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS  
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel  
Kelvin Driscoll, DPSS  
Regina Adkins-Williams, DPSS  
Noemi Castro, DPSS  
Maria Ayala-Galvan, DPSS

Lena Silver, NLSLA  
David Manguramas, LACOE  
Jessica Mark, LAFLA  
Arnold Sachs, Public Guest

### Commission Staff:

La France Toliver  
Tina Phan

### COMMISSIONERS

**Chairperson**  
BOOKER PEARSON

**Vice Chairperson**  
ADELE ANDRADE-STADLER

MICHAEL BLOOM  
JOE BROWN  
FRANK G. DE BALOGH, Ph.D.  
SUE ELHESSEN, Ed.D.  
RAUL ESTRADA  
MICHAEL FLOOD  
EGERTON FORSTER  
MARY GALVAN ROSAS  
RICKEY IVIE, Esq.  
VERONICA LEWIS  
LORI C. STEIN  
DARICK SIMPSON

### COMMISSION STAFF

**Executive Director**  
LA FRANCE TOLIVER

**Commission Secretary**  
TINA PHAN

## **1.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)**

Booker Pearson, Chairman

None.

Chairman Pearson introduced Dr. Sue ElHessen as the new incoming Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Janice Hahn. Dr. Elhessen shared about herself and her accomplishments with the Commission.

## **2.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Antonia Jiménez, Director

Director Jiménez provided Departmental updates on the following topics:

CalFresh Awareness Campaign in May 2019; 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring into Summer Hiring Spree hosted by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas; DPSS at Telemundo Health Fair 2019; Expanding GR Eligibility to Residents Living in Cars; DPSS/Sheriff Homeless Release Project; Services Available to the Homeless Population; DPSS Purpose/Theme "Inspiring Hope, Working Together to Create a Better Tomorrow and showed the 2018 DPSS Purpose Video.

**Follow up Action:** Commissioner Lewis requested to see the overlay of African Americans across DPSS programs.

**Follow up Action:** Commissioner Lewis requested a presentation on the coordination points of all Re-entry and Diversion programs DPSS is currently involved in including Probation and coordinated plans for Juveniles in the Justice System.

**Follow up Action:** Commissioner ElHessen asked if the 2018 DPSS Purpose Video is available for the hearing impaired.

## **3.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING**

Booker Pearson, Chairman

**MOTION:** Commissioner De Balogh moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Estrada second the motion.

**ACTION:** The March 14, 2019, PSS Commission Minutes were approved unanimously, no abstentions and no corrections.

#### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### CalWORKs Earned Income Disregards

CalWORKs Program Section

Noemi Castro, HSA II

Ms. Castro provided CalWORKs (CW) Earned Income (EI) Disregards update as follows:

Due to the minimum wage increase in LA County in July 2018, and subsequent increases to come every July through 2020, DPSS assessed the impact of the minimum wage increase on CWs cases with employment income. They projected a number of CW cases would be discontinued after July 2018 because they exceed the CalWORKs income threshold. It was also discovered that Earned Income Disregards have not been modified since 1997.

The Department in collaboration with CWDA crafted a legislative proposal to modify the CWs EID. This proposal was presented in October 2018 and Assembly Member Mark Stone of Santa Cruz and Monterey, California will author this Bill (AB 1436). The Department continues to work with the CWDA and County lobbyist in Sacramento to move this bill forward.

##### General Relief Program Update – Streamlined Application Process

General Relief & CAPI Section

Regina Adkins-Williams, HSA III

Ms. Adkins-Williams provided an update regarding the GR Streamlined Application Process as follows:

The Department looked at ways to decrease the lobby wait times for GR applicant's in the district office, and second streamline the application process to reduce the time it takes to process an application to approval. The Department's goal is to continuously increase the number of applications that are approved the same-day for individuals who are known to the system thereby aiding our participants sooner. To accomplish this goal, DPSS put the following actions in place:

- 1) Simplified the GR Intake Process whereby some eligibility requirements were deferred if completed by the applicant within 12 months of the current application date and verification is on file in our system.
- 2) Eliminated work requirements for applicants to reduce barriers to meeting eligibility standards and increasing the probability for same day approvals.
- 3) Expanded the Your Benefits Now (YBN) Online Access and provided in office application assistance by adding Self-Service Assistants to aid customers applying for GR via YBN in the office lobby. To date we have received over 180,000 applications via YBN.

By streamlining the GR application process, applicants are moved through the application process expeditiously and granted access their benefits much earlier. When comparing the latest overall data for GR applications received (standard and abbreviated applications), the average number of days for approval for standard applications is 9 days while the average number of days for approval for the abbreviated applications is reported at less than 5 days. Also, of the overall applications processed on the same day, 43% of approvals correspond to the abbreviated applications, in contrast to 20% of approvals for the standard applications.

**Follow up Action:** Discuss at future meeting DMH Pilot.

**Follow up Action:** Commissioner De Balogh requested the Department to pull Veteran data from the GR Program for 2017, 2018, 2019. The Department will submit this request and will provide a response of the outcome.

**Follow up Action:** Chairman Pearson requested longitudinal data from 2015/16 to 2019 to compare the Department's progress on the average wait time in the GR offices. Ms. Jiménez responded baseline data was captured and can be provided.

**Follow up Action:** Commissioner DeBalogh requested to add Commissioner Lewis to the agenda to present on the LAHSA Homeless Report regarding racial inequities as she was a committee member who sat on this committee. She accepted but will not be available to present in July.

## **5.0 ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.